

The Bride of Christ

Law of Divorce

Deut 24:1-4

1 “When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, 2 and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, 3 and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, 4 then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the Lord. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Israel the Faithless Wife

Jer. 2:2, 32-33

2 “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride...

32-33 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number. “How well you direct your course to seek love! So that even to wicked women you have taught your ways.

Israel's Harlotry

Isaiah 57:3-8

3 But you, draw near, sons of the sorceress, offspring of the adulterer and the loose woman. 4 Whom are you mocking? Against whom do you open your mouth wide and stick out your tongue? Are you not children of transgression, the offspring of deceit, 5 you who burn with lust among the oaks, under every green tree, who slaughter your children in the valleys, under the clefts of the rocks? 6 Among the smooth stones of the valley is your portion; they, they, are your lot; to them you have poured out a drink offering, you have brought a grain offering. Shall I relent for these things?

7 On a high and lofty mountain you have set your bed, and there you went up to offer sacrifice. 8 Behind the door and the doorpost you have set up your memorial; for, deserting me, you have uncovered your bed, you have gone up to it, you have made it wide; and you have made a covenant for yourself with them, you have loved their bed, you have looked on nakedness.

Adulterous Sisters

Ezekiel 23 (excerpts)

1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother. 3 They played the whore in Egypt; they played the whore in their youth; there their breasts were pressed and their virgin bosoms handled...

5 “[Samaria] played the whore while she was mine, and she lusted after her lovers the Assyrians... Therefore I delivered her into the hands of her lovers, into the hands of the Assyrians, after whom she lusted... they killed her with the sword; and she became a byword among women, when judgment had been executed on her.

Adulterous Sisters

Ezekiel 23 (excerpts)

11 “Her sister [Jerusalem] saw this, and she became more corrupt than her sister in her lust and in her whoring, which was worse than that of her sister... And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoring lust... 18 When she carried on her whoring so openly and flaunted her nakedness, I turned in disgust from her, as I had turned in disgust from her sister....

22 Therefore, O [Jerusalem], thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I will stir up against you your lovers from whom you turned in disgust, and I will bring them against you from every side... 29 Your lewdness and your whoring 30 have brought this upon you, because you played the whore with the nations and defiled yourself with their idols.

Decree of Divorce

Hosea 2:2

Bring charges against your mother, bring charges;
For she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband!

God's Divorce of Israel

Jer. 3:6-11

6 The Lord said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore? 7 And I thought, 'After she has done all this she will return to me,' but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, **I had sent her away with a decree of divorce**. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. 9 Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. 10 Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares the Lord." 11 And the Lord said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah..."

Impossible?

Jeremiah 3:1

“If a man divorces his wife and she goes from him and becomes another man's wife, will he return to her? Would not that land be greatly polluted? You have played the whore with many lovers; and would you return to me? declares the Lord.

Jeremiah is referring to Deut. 24:1-4

Jeremiah 3:12-14

12 Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say,
“Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever... Return, O faithless children, declares the Lord; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

Is My Hand Shortened?

Isaiah 50:1-2

1 Thus says the Lord: “Where is your mother's certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away. 2 Why, when I came, was there no man; why, when I called, was there no one to answer? **Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem?** Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.

Valley of Dry Bones

Ezek. 37,

1 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. 2 And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. 3 And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” 4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

Valley of Dry Bones

Ezek. 37,

11 Then he said to me, “Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel**. Behold, they say, ‘**Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.**’ 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, **I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.** 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and **I will place you in your own land**. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

Valley of Dry Bones

Ezek. 37

Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Valley of Dry Bones

Ezek. 37

24 “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. 25 They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. 26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 Then the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”

Hosea's Wife

Hosea 1:2

“Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry
And children of harlotry,
For the land has committed great harlotry
By departing from the Lord.” (NKJV)

6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: “Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. 7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the Lord their God...

Not My People => Sons

Hosea 1:8-2:1

8 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. 9 Then God said: “Call his name Lo-Ammi, **For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.**

10 “Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There it shall be said to them, **‘You are sons of the living God.’** 11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be **gathered together**, and **appoint for themselves one head**; and they shall come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel! 2:1 Say to your brethren, ‘My people,’ And to your sisters, ‘Mercy is shown.’

Israel: God's People

I Peter 2:9-10,

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 **Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

Peter directly refers to Hosea 1

My Husband

Hosea 2:14-23

14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her... 16 “And it shall be, in that day,” Says the Lord, “That **you will call Me ‘My Husband,’** And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’ 17 For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more. 19 “**I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me** In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; 20 **I will betroth you to Me** in faithfulness, And you shall know the Lord. 23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’”

A New Covenant

Jer. 31:31-34

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make **a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah**, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband**, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make **with the house of Israel** after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

A New Covenant

Jer. 31:35-37

35 Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the Lord of hosts is his name: 36 “If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the Lord, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.”

37 Thus says the Lord: “If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the Lord.”

Ezekiel 16

Ezek. 16 (excerpts)

On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths... “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ 7 I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare. 8 “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine...

Ezekiel 16

Ezek. 16 (excerpts)

15 “But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his. 16 You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them played the whore... 20 And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter 21 that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them? 22 And in all your abominations and your whorings you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, wallowing in your blood.

Ezekiel 16

Ezek. 16 (excerpts)

25 At the head of every street you built your lofty place and made your beauty an abomination, offering yourself to any passerby and multiplying your whoring. 26 You also played the whore with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, multiplying your whoring, to provoke me to anger... 28 You played the whore also with the Assyrians, because you were not satisfied; yes, you played the whore with them, and still you were not satisfied. 29 You multiplied your whoring also with the trading land of Chaldea, and even with this you were not satisfied.

Ezekiel 16

Ezek. 16 (excerpts)

32 Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband!

...

35 “Therefore, O prostitute, hear the word of the Lord: 36 Thus says the Lord God, Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your whorings with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them, 37 therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness. 38 And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy.

Ezekiel 16

Ezek. 16 (excerpts)

59 “For thus says the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in **breaking the covenant**, 60 yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and **I will establish for you an everlasting covenant...**

62 **I will establish my covenant with you**, and you shall know that I am the Lord, 63 that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I **atone for you for all that you have done**, declares the Lord God.”

Christ the Bridegroom

Matt. 9:15-17;

Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

John 3:29;

29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.

Mystery of the Bride

Eph. 5

23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior...

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish... 31 **“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”** 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

The Bride Revealed

Rev. 19:7-9;

7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Rev. 21:9-12

9 Then came one of the seven angels... saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 And he... showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God... It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates... and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed